



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### **Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 Public Hearing Testimony Energy and Technology Committee**

Dear Senator Paul Doyle, Representative Lonnie Reed, Senator Paul Formica, Representative Tim Ackert, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

My name is Tami Zawistowski and I represent the 61st District which includes Suffield, East Granby, and Windsor. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you and speak on S.B. 286.

#### **S.B. 286: TO REINSTATE THE PEGPETIA GRANT.**

I am requesting support for S.B. 286, which will amend the general statutes to reinstate the public, educational and governmental programming and educational technology investment account grant program, otherwise known as PEGPETIA. The PEGPETIA funds are generated from a tax on all cable companies and direct broadcast satellite providers, and was intended to support public access program production. This was also largely meant to give town governments and schools the ability to access funds, through the grant process, to support electronic and technological program development.

In March 2015, the fund stopped accepting applications, and funds, while they continue to grow, have been transferred to the general fund. This has restricted towns and schools from initiating or increasing public access and educational programming as well as the town government broadcasts that are vital to transparency in our municipalities. Reinstatement of the PEGPETIA grant would provide those cities and towns with the tools they need to better serve their residents. If the grant is not restored, the tax, which is paid by our cable and satellite subscribers, should be eliminated.

I urge you to support S.B. 286 along with me and others who see the importance of this issue.

Sincerely,

Representative Tami Zawistowski  
61st District – Suffield, East Granby, Windsor